

What is claimed is:

1. A merchandiser for holding food, said merchandiser comprising: first walls located around a first compartment; second walls enclosing a second compartment, at least one of the second walls being movable with respect to others of the second walls to provide access to the second compartment; a refrigeration unit for cooling the first compartment; and a heating unit for heating the air that is in the second compartment.

2. A merchandiser according to claim 1 wherein the second compartment is located above the first compartment.

3. A merchandiser according to claim 2 wherein one of the second wall extends horizontally below the second compartment where it serves as a shelf that isolates the second compartment from the first compartment.

4. A merchandiser according to claim 3 wherein the first compartment opens upwardly toward the second compartment and is accessible below the shelf at the bottom of the second compartment.

5. A merchandiser according to claim 4 wherein among the second walls are side walls which rise upwardly from walls of the first compartment and close the sides of the second compartment.

6. A merchandiser according to claim 5 wherein the side walls that are among the second walls include posts.

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7. A merchandiser according to claim 6 wherein the second walls include a housing <sup>64 Fig. 3</sup> supported on the posts, wherein <sup>15</sup> a fan is located in the housing for withdrawing air from the second compartment and discharging it back into the compartment; and wherein a heating <sup>124</sup> element is located in the housing beyond the fan and in the path of the air discharged from the fan.

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8. A merchandiser according to claim <sup>12</sup> 7 wherein the refrigeration unit includes evaporator coils located at least along some of the first walls.

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9. A merchandiser according to claim <sup>9</sup> 8 wherein the side walls also include transparent panels that rise from the first walls to the second compartment and afford observation of the first and second compartments through the panels.

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10. A merchandiser according to claim <sup>2</sup> 9 wherein one of the second walls extends across the top of the second compartment where it forms a housing that encloses a plenum, the housing containing an intake opening and at least one discharge opening spaced from the intake opening; and wherein the heating unit includes <sup>122</sup> a fan located in the plenum to draw air from the second compartment into the plenum through the intake opening and to direct it to the discharge opening through which it is discharged into the second compartment, and a heating element <sup>121</sup> located in the plenum for heating the air in the plenum.

11. A merchandise for displaying foods, said merchandiser comprising a cold pan <sup>12</sup> having vertical walls that surround a cold compartment and a bottom wall connected to the vertical walls and extending across the bottom of the cold compartment; a closure assembly <sup>14</sup> located above the cold pan and including spaced apart side walls rising upwardly from the cold pan; a shelf supported on the side walls above the cold compartment and spaced from the cold

pan; a housing supported on the side walls above the shelf and enclosing a plenum, the housing containing an inlet and an outlet opening; a front wall and a back wall extending between the side walls and between the shelf and housing, so that the front and back walls together with the shelf, the housing and the side walls enclose a warm compartment into which the openings in the housing open, at least one of the front and the back walls being movable to provide access to the warm compartment; and a heating unit including a fan located in the plenum of the housing for withdrawing air from the warm compartment through the inlet opening and discharging it back into the warm compartment through the outlet opening, and a heating element located in the plenum for heating the air as it passes through the plenum;

12. A merchandiser according to claim 11 and further comprising a refrigeration unit having evaporator coils located along at least some of the walls of the cold pan.

13. A merchandiser according to claim 11 wherein the front wall of the closure assembly is transparent.

14. A merchandiser according to claim 13 wherein the side walls of the closure assembly include posts which extend upwardly from the cold pan and are attached to the housing; and wherein the side walls of the closure assembly further include transparent panels through which one can observe the cold compartment.

15. A merchandiser according to claim 14 wherein the front wall of the closure assembly moves and is hinged near its top so that when moved, it pivots upwardly

16. A merchandiser according to claim 15 wherein the back wall of the closure assembly moves and is hinged with respect to the side walls.

17. A merchandiser according to claim 11 wherein the inlet opening of the housing is located generally midway between the ends of the housing and opens downwardly into the warm

compartment, wherein the outlet opening<sup>78</sup> are on both sides of the inlet opening and open downwardly into the warm compartment; wherein two heating elements are located in the housing on each side of the inlet opening, and wherein the fan is located at the inlet openings.

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18. In combination with a counter having a countertop provided with an opening, a merchandiser supported on the counter for displaying foods, said merchandiser comprising a cold pan<sup>12</sup> located generally within the counter and opening out of the countertop at the opening in the countertop; side walls rising upwardly above the counter top; a shelf supported by the side walls above the cold pan, a housing supported by the side walls above the shelf and enclosing a plenum, the housing having inlet and outlet openings, front and back walls extending between the shelf and housing and between the side walls so that the front and back walls together with the housing, shelf and side walls enclose a warm compartment; and a heating element in the plenum of the housing for elevating the temperature of air that passes into the plenum at the inlet opening thence through the plenum, and then out the plenum at the outlet opening.

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19. The combination according to claim 18<sup>3</sup> wherein the side walls are attached to the cold pan and include transparent panels.

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20. The combination according to claim 19<sup>21</sup> wherein the side walls also include posts to which the housing is attached.

21. The combination according to claim 20 wherein the front wall pivots about an axis that is fixed with respect to the side walls.

22. The combination according to claim 21 wherein the back wall pivots about an axes that is fixed with respect to the side walls.

23. The combination according to claim 18 wherein the cold pan has vertical walls and a bottom wall at the lower ends of the vertical walls; and further comprising a refrigeration unit located within the counter and including an evaporator coil located along at least one of the walls of the cold pan.

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